

separate nipple extender axially slidably receivable in the nipple receiving portion of the breast cup. The nipple portion of Beer's breast cup is designated by reference numeral 147, the part designated by 147 comprising part of the breast cup itself, not a separate nipple extender slidably receivable in the nipple receiving portion of the cup. Since Beer et al shows no nipple extender at all, he fails to show or anywhere suggest a nipple extender having a flow channel, size and configuration relative to the nipple receiving portion of the breast cup as claimed in claim 1. Accordingly the Sec. 102 rejection of claim 1 and claim 7 dependent on claim 1 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 have been rejected under Sec. 103 over the newly cited Beer et al in view of Han. Claims 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 1. While Beer et al shows a milk delivery aperture through the end of the nipple receiving portion of the insert for the breast pump, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, Beer et al does not teach or suggest a nipple extender as described and claimed in claim 1 herein. Han makes no such teaching or suggestion either, therefore the claimed combination is not obvious and the Sec. 103 rejection of claims 8 and 9 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19, like claim 1, calls for a nipple extender slidably received in the nipple receiving portion of the breast cup - a feature not disclosed or suggested by Beer et al. As mentioned above, Han makes no such teaching or suggestion either, therefore neither the claimed combination of claim 19 nor of claim 20, which is dependent on claim 19, is obvious and the Sec.

103 rejection of claims 19 and 20 is also respectfully traversed.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under Sec. 103(a) as unpatentable over Larsson et al in view of Beer et al. Larsson et al discloses a breast pump with a set of suction hoods of various sizes to accommodate various sized breasts and nipples without the need for inserts or adapters although, without disclosure of inserts of defined sizes with flow channels, he indicates that they may also still be used (Par. 0001). Larsson et al at best teaches away from the use of nipple extenders. Unlike Larsson and Beer which are directed to breast pumps, the present invention, as explained in the introduction of the specification, is a nursing aid system for assisting mothers to naturally breast feed babies which addresses the problem and frustration experienced by mothers and their children who have not been able to effectively breast feed due to insufficient length, usually temporary, of the mother's nipple. Larsson and Beer each disclose breast pumps and do not disclose or suggest nursing aid systems as claimed in independent claim 10 which includes breast cups and specifically sized nipple extenders therein, the nipple extenders also having flow channels which, as indicated in dependent claims 12 and 15, may be on the exterior surfaces or may comprise internal passageways in the extenders. While the nipple portions of the breast cups of Larsson or Beer may be grasped by an infant provided that the cups are removed from the breast pump, they are not intended to be so grasped and of course can never be so grasped when they are located as intended, in a breast pump.


Despite applicant's traversal of the claim rejections, claims 1, 10 and 19 are each

currently amended to more clearly indicate that the nipple receiving portion of applicant's breast cup is adapted, i. e. soft enough, properly sized and of appropriate material for grasping by the mouth of an infant. The breast pump insert disclosed by Beer et al has a nipple receiving portion which is received in the breast pump - and is never intended for grasping by the mouth of an infant.

The indication of allowability of claims 3 - 5 and 12 - 14 is noted but it is respectfully submitted that the independent claims herein each define nursing aid systems for natural nursing which include breast cups and nipple extenders therein unlike breast pumps which are not intended or used for natural nursing.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. A telephone call to the undersigned is requested if the Examiner believes that any outstanding issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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W. Norman Roth, Reg. No. 26,225  
523 W. 6th Street, Suite 707  
Los Angeles, CA 90014

WNR/ims  
(213) 688-1143